

## Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator	Japan Freight Railway Company
Accident type	Other accidents with casualties
Date and time	About 18:37, December 16, 2017
Location	In the premises of Chihaya yard, Kagoshima Line, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture

### SUMMARY

At about 18:37, December 16, 2017, in the premises of Chihaya yard in Kagoshima Line of Japan Freight Railway Company, the company staff in charge of signal engaged in the work to ignite snow melting device for switches installed in the turnouts, contacted with the inbound 2352M train composed of 6 vehicles started from Kurume station bound for Kokura station of Kyushu Railway Company.

On the other hand, the driver of the train applied the emergency brake to stop the train as he had noticed an abnormal sound. The driver checked the situation and found that the staff in charge of signal had been fallen down.

The staff in charge of signal was dead in the accident.

### PROBABLE CAUSES

It is highly probable that the accident occurred as the staff in charge of signal had entered the up track of Kagoshima Line where the train was running, when the staff in charge of signal and the switchman had been working to ignite the snow melting devices for switches, individually, without staff in charge of watching train.

It is probable that the staffs were working to ignite snow melting devices individually without the watchman, as the training about safety for the company staffs in charge of the work had been insufficient, and their understanding about the importance of watching duties was poor.

It could not be determined the reason why the staff in charge of signal had entered the up track of Kagoshima Line, because the staff in charge of signal was dead in the accident.